

## PEABODY.

### BENJAMIN D. HILL.

The veterans of the war of 1812 are following rapidly those of the war of the Revolution. We record to-day the decease of Mr. BENJAMIN D. HILL, who was a prisoner in Dartmoor Prison at the time of that terrible massacre which will always be a stain upon the English name. Two others of our citizens were prisoners at the time, Mr. Price, who died about a year since, and Mr. Edward Hammond, now the only survivor.

Mr. Hill was born in Salem, Nov. 30th, 1791. His father died in 1799, leaving a large family, and at the early age of eight years he went to Baker's Island and lived with the light house keeper. Before he was ten years of age he rowed his master to and from Salem and assisted in taking care of the lights. He was afterwards apprenticed to the coopers trade, and in 1813 shipped on board a sloop and started as a privateer-sman. The crew mutinied from a dislike of the officers and returned to Salem, when he left and shipped again. When a few days out, the vessel was dismasted but managed to return to port, and again did he ship, this time on board the schooner Cossack, Capt. Jean Upton, and when seven days out, an English sloop of war hove in sight and at once gave chase. Capt. Upton finding that he was in danger attempted to run his craft on shore, and made preparations to blow her up if he could escape with the crew, but an English gun brig coming to the aid of the sloop of war, the Cossack was compelled to haul down her colors to the sloop of war Rattler, and the crew were taken prisoners and carried to St. John's, where they were put in prison, from which they were taken.

Benj. D. Hill obit  
Jan, 3, 1869

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P. 36 Ship Reg. dist. f.  
Salem & 1300' Capt War 1812  
brig. 208 T. reg. 4. 17-1815  
reg. 102. P. Gideon Tuck.  
Thos. Cheever, M.



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to Halifax, thence to England, where they were put on board the prison ship "Crown Prince," and from this they were marched inland to that terrible place, Dartmoor Prison, and here he was at the time of the massacre and stood in the doorway of the prison when the brutal "Shortland" gave the order to fire on the defenceless prisoners. When Peace was declared they were exchanged and put on board a cartel at Plymouth, May 31st 1815, and after a stormy passage of fifty-five days, arrived in New York, from which port he obtained a chance to work his passage to Boston, and then walked to Salem, arriving there August 2d, 1815, having been absent two years and five months. While in prison he made sets of tools for straw work, out of bones, and manufactured fancy articles of straw which were sold to obtain food. His tools are in possession of his children now. In 1818 he was married to Eliza Weston, and moved to this town in 1822, where he started a cooper's shop on the site of the Methodist Church, then a large field extending to the estate of Mr. Joshua Giddings, and including that part of Holton street between Sewell and Ahern street.

It was a singular coincidence that the services at his burial should take place from the spot of his location when he first came here, forty-seven years ago. Mr. Hill was a man of much mechanical ingenuity, as has been intimated above, and when the business of packing beef was largely carried on here, in the capacity of his calling, he coopered for Messrs. Saunders & Wheeler, in one year, 5000 barrels.

Mr. Hill was of a nature friendly and social and fond of society. He was one of the oldest members of the Salem Charitable Mechanic Association, one of the earliest of the first Anti-Slavery Association, and was

He lived on the western corner of Oak & Wash sts. when he came to Peabody. In 182— he, with Andrew Tarr, opened Wash Place. He had the western side, where he built a modest story & a half house on the corner when his sons were married he gave them a lot on which to build a house. Seth Rogers & Benj D both died so. Much later his son Loris Ann who married Ch. Whaley moved the original house

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always in the front rank of reformers. He was one of the founders of the Methodist Episcopal Church, whose members have long been accustomed to call him by the affectionate name of "Father Hill." His comrades of the old Danvers Light Infantry will not soon forget, as they marched by the music of his bass drum, his geniality in the mess, in camp and the social feast. Ever cheerful and warm, it seemed that he was never destined to grow old. So it was up to the time of the loss of the companion of his life in 1866, which was a shock to him from which he never recovered. He died on Saturday night of congestion of the brain, and calmly passed away in a serene old age and without a struggle.

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1869

down the street & built  
a 3 story, sq. house on  
the corner in the place  
of the original one.  
Seth was a carpenter,  
Benj. D<sup>r</sup> was a reporter  
for some Boston <sup>Salem</sup> papers  
also a florist. He had a  
small green house in his  
yard <sup>at</sup>. He sold Dutch  
bulbs & had prizes at  
M<sup>r</sup>. Fort. Soc. Shows in  
Boston. He was a  
member of "Ye Boarde" in  
Salem.

B.D.H. M. Eliza Weston  
of Salem, Wash. Ig. Cor., William

Great-grandfather  
Benj D. Hill, obit.